

Amendment**I. In The Specification.**

1. None.

II. In the Drawings.

1. None.

III. In the Claims.

1. Please amend claim 6 and 7 as follows:

6. (Once amended) The signal lens as in claim 1 [5], whereby:
a first line drawn between adjacent light transmitting elements when bisected by a second line normal to the first line drawn from a tangent point on a third light transmitting element, the second line having a length d_2 ;
the light transmitting elements each having a diameter d_1 ;
and
 $d_2 < d_1$.

7. (Twice amended) A lens comprising:

a reflective surface; and
a plurality of light transmitting elements arranged adjacent and parallel to each other to form a bundle describing a substantially planar layer; and
the reflective surface arranged substantially parallel to the planar layer whereby a light is [may be] reflected from the reflective surface and received by at least one light transmitting element.

2. Please add the following new claims 16-18.

16. A signal lens system comprising:

a light source;
a reflective surface;
a plurality of light transmitting elements arranged adjacent and parallel to each other to form a substantially planar layer;

the light source located between the reflective surface and the planar layer; and

a first line drawn between adjacent light transmitting elements when bisected by a second line normal to the first line drawn from a tangent point on a third light transmitting element, the second line having a length d_2 , the light transmitting elements each having a diameter d_1 , and $d_2 < d_1$.

17. A signal lens system comprising:

a light source;

a reflective surface;

a plurality of fiber optic strands molded into a member material and arranged substantially adjacent to and substantially parallel to each other to form a substantially planar layer; and

the light source located between the reflective surface and the planar layer;

a first line drawn between adjacent fiber optic strands when bisected by a second line normal to the first line drawn from a tangent point on a third fiber optic strand, the second line having a length d_2 , the fiber optic strands each having a diameter d_1 , and

$d_2 < d_1$.

18. The signal lens as in claim 17, wherein the fiber optic strands each have a central axis that is inclined to a reflective surface at an angle in the range of 0° to 45° .

IV. Remarks.

The Examiner entered the following rejection which is addressed as presented in the office action.

1. Claims 1-6 and 7-15 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bibbiani et al (US patent 5,639, 153).